

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-05 /076 W
-----061558 121617Z /43

O R 121541Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6544
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV PINS PINT RH ZA
SUBJ: KAUNDA ON RHODESIA

1. ADDRESSING A MASS RALLY IN LUSAKA SEPTEMBER 11,
ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT KAUNDA COMMENTED EXTENSIVELY ON THE
SECURITY SITUATION WITH RHODESIA AND ON ATTEMPTS TO FIND
A SETTLEMENT THERE. REFERRING TO THE AUGUST 31 ATTACK
AGAINST FEIRA, KAUNDA SAID THAT THREE ZAMBIAN SOLDIERS
AND THREE CIVILIANS HAD BEEN KILLED, AND THAT THE
RHODESIANS HAD USED NAPALM IN THE BOMBING RAID. THE
PRESIDENT SAID THAT THE ONLY REASON THAT ZAMBIA HAD
NOT RETALIATED IN KIND WAS THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO
KILL INNOCENT ZIMBABWEANS. KAUNDA CALLED ON THE U.S.
AND OTHER WESTERN POWERS TO REMOVE SMITH FROM POWER
BEFORE ZAMBIA WAS FORCED TO RETALIATE AND BOMB
RHODESIAN TOWNS.

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2. ON THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS, KAUNDA SAID HIS
QUESTION STILL WAS HOW SMITH WILL BE REMOVED. WHILE
HE SUPPORTED THE PROPOSALS, HE SAID THEY LACK THE VITAL
ELEMENT OF THE MEANS OF REMOVING SMITH FROM POWER.
KAUNDA TOLD THE CROWD THAT THE ONLY REASON SMITH WAS STILL
IN CONTROL WAS BECAUSE HE WAS WHITE. HAD HE BEEN BLACK,

UDI WOULD HAVE ENDED IN ONE DAY. KAUNDA ALSO SAID HE WAS MORE HOPEFUL NOW THAT THE U.S. WAS INVOLVED IN THE SITUATION BECAUSE IN THE PAST THE BRITISH HAD NOT BEEN SERIOUS ON THE ISSUE. NEVERTHELESS, HE WAS STILL WAITING FOR AN ANSWER ON HOW SMITH IS TO BE REMOVED.

3. KAUNDA ALSO TOLD THE LARGE CROWD THAT A 12-MAN "SABOTAGE SQUAD" OF WHITE AND BLACK RHODESIANS HAD BEEN INFILTRATED INTO ZAMBIA TO DESTROY IMPORTANT INSTALLATIONS SUCH AS BRIDGES, ELECTRICAL SUPPLY STATIONS, AND POST OFFICES. HE WARNED ALL ZAMBIANS TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR STRANGERS AND TO REPORT THEM TO THE SECURITY FORCES.

4. COMMENTING ON THE CONTINUING CURFEW AND BLACKOUT, KAUNDA CASTIGATED "RUMOR-MONGERS" AND FOREIGN JOURNALISTS FOR SPREADING "MALICIOUS" INTERPRETATIONS OF THE ACTION. REFERRING TO STORIES THAT THE CURFEW WAS BEING USED AS A COVER TO BRING IN RUSSIAN OR CUBAN TROOPS, KAUNDA SAID THAT IF HE THOUGHT SUCH TROOPS WERE NECESSARY, HE WOULD BRING THEM IN BROAD DAYLIGHT. REPORTS THAT THE CURFEW WAS DESIGNED TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM DOMESTIC PROBLEMS WERE BRANDED AS LIES MANUFACTURED BY "IDIOTS", AS WERE CHARGES THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS ROUNDING UP POLITICAL OPPONENTS.

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5. ON OTHER MATTERS, KAUNDA SAID THAT ZAMBIA WOULD BE UNABLE TO HOST THE OAU SPECIAL SUMMIT ON THE SAHARA (REPORTED SEPTEL) BECAUSE OF THE SECURITY SITUATION. ON SOUTH AFRICAN MOVES REGARDING WALVIS BAY, KAUNDA SAID HE WAS SURPRISED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WAS REMAINING SILENT ON THE "DAYLIGHT ROBBERY" OF THE PORT, WHICH HE SAID BELONGS TO NAMIBIA.

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6. KAUNDA'S SPEECH WAS LONG AND AT TIMES EMOTIONAL. THERE IS SOME CONFUSION ABOUT WHAT KAUNDA ACTUALLY SAID REGARDING US AND WESTERN SUPPORT FOR THE SMITH REGIME. FOR EXAMPLE, THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA REPORTS HIM AS SAYING, IN CONNECTION WITH THE ALLEGED RHODESIAN HTSM OF NAPALM, "I AM ASKING THE AMERICANS WHO GIVE SMITH THESE WEAPONS TO TAKE NOTE OF THIS BECAUSE I CANNOT GO ON INDEFINATELY." THE U.S. DID GET GOOD MARKS FROM KAUNDA, HOWEVER FOR

ITS INVOLVEMENT IN THE SETTLEMENT ATTEMPTS.
LOW

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PHYSICAL SECURITY, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LUSAKA02762
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770329-1182
Format: TEL
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770974/aaaackyl.tel
Line Count: 115
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3b0d8648-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1310031
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KAUDA ON RHODESIA
TAGS: PDEV, PINS, PINT, RH, ZA, (KAUNDA, KENNETH DAVID)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3b0d8648-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009